I have during my tenure

here voted twice to empower our military

to take action. The first time was

with Afghanistan; and the President

came to the Congress and made a powerful

case that it was in our national

security interest to do so. I supported

that. Then it was with Iraq; and the

President came to Congress. He spent a

significant amount of time providing

evidence and making a case that there

was a national security interest.

This time, however, it was a surprise

to me and to most of my colleagues

that this mission was occurring. There

has been no attempt to define what the

national security interests are, the

United States’ interests in this military

action. Without that, I can’t look

my constituents in the eyes and tell

them why we are in Libya right now

and active in military strikes against

that nation state.

So the one constitutional power that

Congress has explicitly is the purse

strings. We are exercising that right. I

support the effort to pull those strings

tight. Let’s stop the flow of money into

this action.